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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

BOOK NOTICES.

AN exceedingly clever and well written satire on New York, its customs, its society, its politics and its men and women, is given us with the title of "Gotham and the Gothamites," written by some mythical Baron, Heinrich Oscar Von Karlstein, and translated by F. C. Valentine. There are very many pertinent and admirable passages in it and while it necessarily exaggerates our national and local peculiarities, it does so in a manner that is pleasing and which is really essential to show us the extreme folly of many of them. The Teutonic tone is well sustained throughout, and were it not for the evident political prejudices and the keen appreciation of the subtleties of the American joke (an appreciation no foreigner can ever rise equal to), Mr. Valentine might safely pass as a mere translator and successfully shirk the modest responsibility of authorship. His localization of St. Louis as "a town near Chicago," is a sop to his publishers and should insure a good sale in the Garden City of the West. He dilates a little too much on New York politics, but the balance compensates for this oversight. The infamy of that subject is too apparent to require the Baron's notice, it is the habits we indulge in unconsciously every day that makes interesting reading, and these Mr. Valentine has pretty thoroughly and plainly discussed. His claim in the accompanying circular that to translate the work in thirty hours is one of the advertising dodges he might have enumerated in his chapter on that subject. (LAIRD & LEE, 286 S. Water Street, Chicago).

IN common with a great portion of the world we have been the recipients of some very handsome Calendars for 1887. The handsomest, probably, is one from SMITH & ANTHONY STOVE Co., Boston, Mass., reproducing in its original brilliant colors a picture of Oriental life called "The Confidants," which elicited more than ordinary comment and compliment at the recent Boston art sale. It is certainly a beautiful piece of work, and worthy all the admiration bestowed upon it, the only adverse criticism possible to be made upon it is the incongruity of a bright Eastern sun coming in such immediate contact with a stove advertisement, but the object was attractiveness, not strict consistency, and the attractiveness is certainly here.

There is a very rich calendar from THE POPE MANUFACTURING Co., Boston, Mass., showing the usual road adventures of the bicyclist and giving a realistic sketch in colors of Mr. Stevens "doing" the globe in circumference on a two wheeler.

THE MOSS ENGRAVING Co., New York, have a noticeable calendar printed from their new Mosstypes. They are artistic and good.

THE CHURCHMAN announces a series of articles "intended to promote the beautifying of churches," and treating upon the arrangement of the grounds around the buildings, of their interior decoration, furnishing, memorials, etc., etc., all under the immediate supervision of Mr. Charles R. Lamb and a number of well known architects, writers and artists to provide him with material, among these being Calvert Vaux, Walter Crane, Lewis F. Day, Bishop Cox and many others. The topic is a good one and a useful one, we are confident of this from the very many requests we had to furnish something of the sort, which we did in the series now running in our pages. But we have treated principally of the decoration of interiors, and that is but a phase of the subject. With the facilities enjoyed by *The Churchman* and the strong corps of assistants at its command it will no doubt produce an interesting and an exhaustive volume. (Lafayette Place, New York).

It is rather singular, considering the continuous agitation of the woman question in its many phases, that no one has thought to publish a strictly woman's paper. It has finally been thought of, however, and evidently by a person fully capable of handling the subject. THE QUESTION, "whose mission it is to secure fair wages and fair treatment for women," published its first number on January 15, and starts with all the vigor of an enthusiast. It is spicily written, argumentative and entertaining; every woman should be directly and actively interested in it—especially at the very moderate price of one dollar per year. It is a weekly. (THE QUESTION, 30 E. Fourteenth Street, New York).

A NOTABLE illustrated article in February number of *Scribner's Magazine* is "The Likenesses of Cæsar," by Mr. J. C. Ropes. For years Mr. Ropes has been collecting photographs of the head of Julius Cæsar, as it appears in the busts and statues of him. The article is a description of this unique collection, and is finely illustrated with reproductions of the most striking portraits among the number.

"EPITAPHS of Twenty-five Saints and Fifty Sinners," is a volume of verses upon the prominent characters of the times. The author is M. P. Helmbold, and he claims originality for his work. The claim is just, it has the originality one would look for from a lunatic asylum. (M. P. HELMBOLD, Long Branch, N. J.).

IT is rather late to notice the holiday issue of FREUND'S MUSIC AND DRAMA, yet it is worthy of it even at this time. It has a cover more or less striking, by Geo. R. Halm, rather too much like a poster to be artistic. The inside fully compensates, however, and has some very charming pictures of stage celebrities. Victorien Sardou, of whom every one has heard and so few seen, is pictured. Stratford-on-Avon is well illustrated, the German Opera Co. is represented by the heads of its various prominent members. There are portraits of Mmes. Nilsson, Patti, Lucca; Signor Nicolini, in the singers; Miss Fortescue, Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. James Brown Potter represent the celebrities of good luck. Clara Morris and Ellen Terry are the representatives of ability, with Mr. Irving as a sort of an adjunct to the latter. Booth, Barrett, Richard Wagner, Raymond, Goodwin, show diverse but undoubted talent, while Wallack and Dixey are given, probably, as examples of the capricious manner in which nature dispenses luck and fortune. The number is a good one. (FREUND PUB. CO., New York).

THE PHONOGRAPHIC MONTHLY (Vol I., No. 1), is the explanatory title of a publication coming to us from Cincinnati. The purpose is to furnish pleasant reading to the class of phonographic experts or students, and it is given partly in the ordinary language that less cultivated persons comprehend and partly in short hand. The stories in this latter form are to us very much as the words of Cæsar were to Casca, "They were all Greek to me," so we are not competent to speak of their quality; the others, however, we found quite entertaining, especially the "Reporting Experiences before the War," by Benn Pitman. The phonetic (common sense) system of spelling has been adopted and works admirably in this opening number. The magazine looks as though it deserved success, and we hope it will secure it. (The Phonographic Institute, Cincinnati, O.).

PROF. A. E. WILLIS has started the publication of THE NEW YORK PHYSIOGNOMIST, a small paper devoted to his profession of studying the face. This is a subject that is very little known or thought of and yet it is of more real and practical value than either phrenology, palmistry or any of the fashionably popular arts for reading character. To discover one's character, or an approach to it, in the countenance of those we meet, would unquestionably save the business community thousands of dollars yearly. For that reason they should know something of it. Prof. Willis has some excellent reading in his paper, among it an ingenious endeavor to reproduce the face of Christ from a study of his character so far as the world knows of it. Published at 835 Broadway.

MODERN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE. No. 1. A Large Country House. By Bruce Price. Published by Wm. T. Comstock, New York, is a volume of twenty-four plates, with specifications, plans, elevations, interior furnishings, etc., of a country house built in California. It shows a structure of more than usual beauty, solidity and detail, and seems to be a model for a country home. To a person who has such a building in contemplation this folio would certainly be valuable for the numberless suggestions it contains if the appropriation of ideas went no further. To architects we should consider it a most useful adjunct.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM JAMES, of Harvard College, occupies the first place in *The Popular Science Monthly* for February with an unusually readable paper on "The Laws of Habit." A very clear explanation, on physiological grounds, of the way in which habits come to involve all the functions of the organism, growing with its growth, and hardening into permanency as it matures, makes this article invaluable reading for youth and for those who have the care of the young.

PUBLIC OPINION is one of the most useful publications that reaches us. It gives in a very few pages and a very little space, comparatively, a review of our national ideas upon current topics and questions as indicated by the expressions of our leading papers from all points of the country. Its circulation should be large. (PUBLIC OPINION PUBLISHING Co., Washington, D.C.).

THE fourth number of THE RESTAURATEUR has made its appearance, and is creditable as has been its predecessors. There is no other publication in its immediate field and so it has every opportunity for being as good as it is. (J. W. PRATT & SON, New York).

OUR pleasant exchange, THE NORTHWESTERN ARCHITECT, of Minneapolis, has made some great improvements recently. A part of the most agreeable reading is from Mr. Fitzpatrick, the art editor, whose sketches are also a noticeable feature and a most artistic one as well.

A CATALOGUE of the painting and sculpture contained in the A. T. Stewart Collection, is being prepared and will be sold at \$25. The collection itself will be auctioned late in February.

THE INLAND ARCHITECT AND BUILDER, of Chicago, prints in two colors frequently, and makes a neat as well as a valuable paper.